



Task Force Exchange

Montana gains additional DUI Task Forces

By LONIE HUTCHISON
Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator



Director Jim Lynch, Governor's Representative for Highway Traffic Safety, has approved 25 DUI Task Force Plans for SFY2009 representing 29 counties. Additional plans continue to come in.

On Thursday, October 2nd, the Montana Department of Transportation will host the annual Statewide DUI Task Force meeting in Helena. The number of DUI Task Forces has grown since last October's gathering.

New DUI Task Forces:

- Anaconda/Deer Lodge Counties
- Broadwater County
- Judith Basin County
- Madison County
- Powell County
- Sanders County

Task Forces in Development Stage:

- Blaine County
- Park/Meagher Counties

- Petroleum County
- Phillips County
- Pondera County
- Lincoln County
- Mineral County
- Missoula County
- Ravalli County
- Richland/McCone/Sheridan Counties
- Sweet Grass County
- Yellowstone County

Established DUI Task Forces

- Beaverhead County
- Big Horn County/Crow Reservation
- Butte-Silver Bow County
- Carbon County
- Cascade County
- Custer/Rosebud & Powder River Counties
- Dawson County
- Fergus County
- Flathead County
- Gallatin County
- Hill County
- Jefferson County
- Lake County/Flathead Reservation
- Lewis & Clark County



DUI Task Forces across the state invested many hours over the past few months reviewing crash data and identifying strategies to reduce alcohol-involved crashes, injuries and fatalities in their counties as they prepared their DUI Plans for State Fiscal Year 2009.

Why have a Statewide DUI Task Force Association?

By AL RECKE
Coordinator, Cascade County DUI Task Force

About a year ago, I was attending the annual statewide DUI Task Force meeting hosted by the State Highway Traffic Safety Bureau of the Montana Department of Transportation .

As I looked around the room at 35 or so folks, I became aware that I really didn't know most of the other attendees and thought about the resources that I was missing out on. Each of the attendees brought a unique approach to their own county's DUI issues. Although I've been the Coordinator of the

Cascade County DUI Task Force for almost 14 years, I'm still learning new tricks to combat DUIs.

I then thought why don't we, as a group, form an association so we can exchange ideas, methods and successes (as well as things that don't work) so we don't waste time and money. I envisioned an association that would:

- Stay in touch by a web site, email, telephone and the occasional face-to-face meeting.
- Maybe a person to coordinate/facilitate the process and a "go-to" person for guidance if and when needed since many new folks were in attendance and just getting their Task Forces started.



"Don't drink & drive this Halloween or we'll get ya!"

Al Recke

I have testified in Helena before numerous legislative committees regarding DUI issues. When you stand in front of the committee, you have to state your name and if you represent any group or are just a citizen.

When I testified, I had to say I was representing the Cascade County DUI Task Force, which has 25 members. When I was thinking of a statewide association, I thought how much more influential

Regional Meetings

By LONIE HUTCHISON, Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator

Three veteran DUI Task Force Coordinators graciously volunteered to host Regional DUI Task Force meetings during the months of May, June and July 2008. The primary purpose of the meetings was to network and share innovative ideas and information with representatives from counties that are either working on or considering starting DUI Task Forces.

Many thanks to **Glenda Wiles**, Ravalli County DUI Task Force Coordinator; **Lisa Posada-Griffin**, Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Coordinator; and **Al Recke**, Cascade County DUI Task Force Coordinator.

June 5—Billings.

The meeting drew 18 participants representing 6 counties: Big Horn County, Crow Agency, Lewis & Clark County, Missoula County, Richland/McCone/Sheridan Counties and Yellowstone County.

July 8 – Great Falls.

The meeting drew 10 participants representing 7 counties: Hill County, Lincoln County, Sanders County, Lewis & Clark County, Gallatin County and Missoula County.

Train-the-Trainer workshops for the Montana Department of Revenue's Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service training, "Let's Control It" were held at both meetings. Lisa Scates, Education Specialist for the Liquor Control Division of the Montana Department of Revenue attended both regional meetings. Pam Buckman from the State Highway Traffic Safety Bureau attended the Great Falls meeting.

Note: The Regional DUI Task Force meeting scheduled for May 30, 2008 in Hamilton will be rescheduled for a later date due to the low number of registered participants.

ATTENTION DUI TASK FORCE COORDINATORS

If your DUI Task Force is interested in hosting a Regional DUI Task Force meeting during State Fiscal Year 2009 in your county, please contact Lonie Hutchison to schedule a date and location.

As we head into SFY09, there may be as many as 12 new DUI Task Forces (perhaps more) that would benefit greatly by sitting down with veteran DUI Task Force Coordinators and members to learn from your years of experience.

Community stakeholders exploring the possibility of starting a DUI Task Force, but may be a little hesitant, would also benefit greatly from your encouragement as part of a regional meeting.

Retailers are the first line of defense in preventing underage alcohol sales

By LONIE HUTCHISON, Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator

Many of the DUI Task Force Plans for State Fiscal Year 2009 include sponsoring Responsible Alcohol Sales/Service training. The Montana Department of Revenue's course, "Let's Control It" is one to consider using.

"Let's Control It" teaches participants to recognize and prevent intoxication in others. Program participants are trained by certified instructors to detect the signs of intoxication and intervene effectively to prevent any alcohol-related problems. The course also teaches participants how to identify underage persons to help limit the access to alcohol for youth.

The servers and sellers of alcohol are the first line of defense in curbing underage drinking,

over intoxication, and drunk driving. These professionals have an obligation to the well-being of their communities. Their responsibilities include:

- Eliminate selling to minors
- Eliminate secondary selling
- Refusing altered or false IDs
- Eliminate selling to obviously intoxicated customers

The course is for bartenders, owners, managers, servers, bouncers, or anyone that has a part in serving or selling alcohol. Participants receive a certificate from the Department of Revenue.



MDOR offers free train-the-trainer sessions

The Montana Department of Revenue offers free train-the-trainer sessions for their "Let's Control It" course.

To Register for a Train-the-Trainer Session

Contact:

Lisa Scates, Education Specialist

MDOR – 406-444-4307

LiScates@mt.gov

So...What is required of certified trainers for the MDOR "Let's Control It" training?

Trainer Policies:

- To be certified as a trainer, one must attend the one-day workshop, present a portion of the curriculum at the workshop, and complete the trainer exam.
- Trainer must recertify every two years by attending a train-the-trainer course.

- Trainer must teach at least two "Let's Control It" classes per year.
- Trainer must keep Department of Revenue up to date on their contact information.
- On a monthly basis, trainer must provide the Department of Revenue with a list of scheduled classes.

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it would have been if I could have said I, or whomever, represented 30-40 county DUI Task Forces with several hundred members.

Numbers Speak

When advocating for change, numbers speak. When several hundred persons get behind an idea, people pick up their ears and listen.

Remember, state Traffic Safety employees (or any other state employee for that matter) can't advocate before legislative committees because they are state employees and it would be illegal for them to do so. They can provide information if requested to do so, but they can't pitch either for or against a bill.

DUI Task Forces are not subject to lobbying restrictions and may advocate freely for legislative change.

We will be more powerful together than we are as separate entities in bringing about meaningful legislative change that will reduce impaired driving in Montana.

We as individuals have much to contribute in our fight to combat impaired drivers, but we as a group would be even more efficient and effective in our war.

Al Recke

FREE PLANNERS AVAILABLE

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a free planner for use during Halloween and the Thanksgiving period.

Download posters, public service announcements, op-ed articles, letters to the editor, and more from www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

Check back often for new materials!

NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

October 19–25

Plan now for **National Teen Driver Safety Week** October 19 to 25, 2008 in your community.

This year, like every year, more than 5,000 teens will likely die on America's roads.

National Teen Driver Safety Week was established by Congress last year to focus attention on the nation's epidemic of teen car crashes and to find solutions.

There are many well-known factors that raise a teen driver's risk of getting in a fatal crash: Speeding, drinking, talking on a cell phone driving at night, and carrying peer passengers.

Resources are available from www.ntdsw2008.com to plan an activity or event at your middle school and high school.

A few students could organize the Friends Driving Friends Poll activity for morning announcements which involves students voting daily to give their opinions on four different questions about driving and helps educate them about safe passenger behavior.

Check out the script and other ideas for this year's campaign to encourage teens to "Ride Like a Friend" and "Driver Like You Care".

Coordinator's Corner

Each issue of the *Task Force Exchange* will highlight the work of one or more DUI Task Force Coordinators

Design a Logo Contest

By MARK HUMPHREY

BIG HORN COUNTY

William Little Wolf and Ezekiel Rising Sun were glad that they showed up on the last day of school, May 28. Not only did they get to sing the Northern Cheyenne Flag song as a school one last time, but both youngsters were presented checks by Big Horn County DUI Task Force Coordinator Mark Humphrey for their entries in the "Design a Logo" contest sponsored by the Task Force. Under the guidance of Art Instructor Ann King, 14 students from Northern Cheyenne Tribal Schools submitted entries in the contest.

A few hours later, Mark visted Pretty Eagle School to award the winning prize in the Task Force logo contest. As Chelsea Pretty Paint posed to receive a \$100 check, she was swarmed by teachers and schoolmates alike jokingly asking if they could borrow \$100. But that wasn't all, Pretty Paint's check totaled \$125. Her entry was also tabbed as the

Best of School for the additional \$25.

The Task Force sponsored art contest included all county high school, middle school, elementary, grade school, kindergarten, Head Start students and home-schoolers. Entries were judged based on the criteria of "impaired driving" prevention message and artistic merit and creativity. Thirty-one (31) entries were received.

The art of a child can drive home a message in a manner that touches the heart.

Mark Humphrey

According to the contest rules, by submission of entry, the artist granted the Big Horn County DUI Task Force the exclusive

rights to the entry. The Task force may use any entry received in the contest as part of our preventing drunk driving campaigns.

The Task Force is grateful to the students who participated in the contest. The art of a child can drive home a message in a manner that touches the heart. Our County will be safer because these students chose to participate.



Lonie Hutchison, Editor

Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator
Missoula County DUI Task Force
Coordinator

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Writers in this issue:

- Al Recke
- Mark Humphrey
- Lonie Hutchison

ATTENTION DUI TASK FORCES:

If you have articles that you would like included in the

Task Force Exchange

Please mail or email them to

Lonie Hutchison

Missoula City-County Health Dept.

301 West Alder

Missoula MT 59802

hutchisonl@ho.missoula.mt.us

CONSIDERING

STARTING A DUI TASK FORCE?

REQUEST A COPY OF:

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE:

STARTING A

DUI TASK FORCE IN YOUR COUNTY



CONTACT:

LONIE HUTCHISON

STATEWIDE DUI TASK FORCE FACILITATOR

406-258-3880

hutchisonl@ho.missoula.mt.us

Trainer Policies, from p. 2

- Trainer must provide the name, employer, address, and phone number for every individual who attends a Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service class taught by the trainer.
- The trainer may charge a “materials fee” in the amount of not more than \$15.00 per participant to help defray the cost of materials reproduction, refreshments, training room fees, etc.
- Trainer may use supplemental components (i.e. additional slides, news clippings, videos, etc.) that are appropriate to their community but must keep the core curriculum intact.

Curriculum Policies

- The amount of time recommended for the *Let's Control It* program is three (3) hours but may be longer if needed.
- Trainers may not provide exam answers to participants.
- Grading of exams is to be completed by the Department of Revenue. Exams must be sent in with the sign in sheets.
- Trainers are permitted to photocopy any of the *Let's Control It* materials as needed.
- The Department of Revenue maintains the right to revoke the certification of any trainer who does not comply with training/curriculum policies and procedures.

These policies ensure that class participants in Ekalaka receive the same level of instruction as students in Lewistown or Yaak.

Building consistency will serve the state well if server training becomes mandatory.

BEWARE OF ALCOHOLIC ENERGY DRINKS

- Popular with underage drinkers because of their taste, effect and cost.
- They can contain anywhere between 4-8.5% alcohol by volume.
- Blurred distinction: not easily distinguishable from the non-alcoholic energy drinks.
- Often located in stores right next to the non-alcoholic energy drinks.

Based on academic literature, scientific studies suggest energy drinks do not limit the effect of alcohol on impairment. People may have faster reaction times and report feeling less drunk, but they still have impaired judgment from the alcohol. Caffeine, a stimulant, masks the intoxicating effects of the alcohol content, which may lead to increased risk-taking.

Source: MDOR's "Let's Control It" Curriculum

NOTE: There is a free downloadable PowerPoint presentation (with notes) on alcohol energy drinks available at :

www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/safetyprg.shtml